

Edwards Secures Funds for Breast Cancer Screening Machine at Goodall-Witcher

(WASHINGTON) – U.S. Representative Chet Edwards announced that local efforts to bring a digital mammography machine to Goodall-Witcher Hospital will be supported by \$190,000 he has included in the final 2009 Appropriations bill, which passed the House today by a vote of 245 to 178.

“This digital mammography equipment will literally save lives and increase early detection for breast cancer for women,” said Edwards.

“The Board of Trustees and Medical Staff of Goodall-Witcher Healthcare Foundation want to thank Congressman Chet Edwards and his staff for their assistance in obtaining a \$190,000 grant toward the purchase of our digital mammography equipment,” said Rick Lundberg, Board of Trustees Chairman.

The availability of breast cancer screening exams in this rural community is considered an essential health need for women. Finding breast cancer early reduces your risk of dying from the disease by 25-30% or more. The \$190,000 for the digital mammography machine will allow Goodall-Witcher Hospital to conduct screening, and diagnostic tests enhancing breast cancer screening services in the community. Recent studies also suggest that mammography may also aid in the identification of patients who are at risk for strokes. This makes the technology of digital mammography even more important for women's health.

“Through Congressman Edwards’ dedication to rural health care, patients can have access to the latest in mammography equipment at Goodall-Witcher,” stated Clarence Fields, Jr., President/CEO.

“Providing expanded quality health care for families in Bosque County is an important goal that I will continue to strongly support,” said Edwards. “While no one can put a dollar amount on an individual’s life, this money will save Bosque County citizens hundreds of thousands of dollars in health care costs by preventing this terrible disease.